

**Standard 7-3** The student will demonstrate an understanding of political, social, and economic upheavals that occurred throughout the world during the age of revolution, from 1770 through 1848.

**7-3.3** Compare the development of Latin American independence movements, including the Haitian revolution, the role of Simon Bolivar in different independence movements, and the role of Father Miguel Hidalgo in the Mexican Revolution of 1810. (P, H, G)

**Taxonomy Level:** B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:**

This is the first time students have been taught about the development of Latin American independence movements, including the Haitian revolution, the role of Simon Bolivar and Father Miguel Hidalgo in the Mexican Revolution in 1810.

In Global Studies, students will compare the key elements of the revolutions that took place on the European and American continents in the nineteenth century, including social and political motivations for these revolutions and the changes in social organization that emerged following them (GS-4.3).

In US History students will explain the impact of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution on the American colonies and on the world at large (USHC-2.2).

**It is essential for students to know:**

The **Latin American independence movements** were inspired by the Enlightenment (7-2.2) and the American and French Revolutions (7-3.2). The ideas of liberty and equality inspired independence from colonial domination in this society driven by social structure.

Similar to the French Revolution, social class struggles and discontent played a large role in Latin American independence movements. The *peninsulares*, despite constituting the smallest percentage of the population, occupied the highest political positions in society as the wealthy Spanish-born citizens. The creoles were Spaniards born in Latin America who could not hold political office but could be army officers. Together, these two classes possessed the wealth, power, and land in Latin America. Beneath them in the social hierarchy were the mestizos (a mixture of European and Indian ancestry), mulattos (a mixture of European and African ancestry), and the slave class.

In **Haiti**, the western third of the island of Hispaniola, the revolution was inspired by the American Revolution in particular. This French colony, which was known as Saint-Dominique (Fr) or Santo Domingo (Sp) prior to its independence, had a large slave population, most of whom were treated brutally and lived in poor conditions. In 1791, a group of 100,000 slaves revolted, and Toussaint L'Ouverture soon became their leader. By 1801, L'Ouverture had gained control of the island and freed all the enslaved Africans. In 1802, France sent troops to deal with the situation and remove L'Ouverture from power. L'Ouverture was sent to France, where he died in a French prison in 1803, but the French were unsuccessful in quelling the rebellion. In 1804, Haiti declared its independence, thus making this the only successful slave revolt in history.

Throughout the rest of Latin America, creoles led the majority of the independence movements, having been educated in Europe and exposed to Enlightenment and revolutionary ideals. Upset by Napoleon Bonaparte's decision to make his brother, Joseph, the king of Spain, the creoles of Latin America used Locke's ideas of consent of the governed to justify rebellion against Spain.

**Simón Bolívar**, a creole general, led the independence movements throughout South America beginning in his home country of Venezuela in 1811. Bolívar then moved into Colombia and Ecuador, where he met José de San Martín, who had recently freed Chile. Together, the two men combined forces under Bolívar's command to liberate Peru. Bolívar's dream to unite the Spanish colonies of South America into a single country, known as Gran Colombia, was a reality for a short time as Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador were temporarily united. But political issues soon separated the countries once again into their own independent states.

In Mexico, the independence movement was led by the mestizos. **Padre Miguel y Costilla Hidalgo (Father Miguel Hidalgo)**, inspired by Enlightenment ideals, called for rebellion, and a crowd marched toward Mexico City. However, they were defeated in 1811 by the upper classes, who feared losing their power to the lower classes. Another attempt at revolt four years later also failed. Mexican independence finally was attained in 1821 when Mexican creoles, fearing the loss of their power, declared independence from Spain with Agustín de Iturbide as their emperor. In 1823, the nations of Central America (Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica) declared their independence from Mexico.

**It is not essential for students to know:**

While it is necessary to know the class system in Latin America and a general overview of where independence movements occurred and why, it is not necessary for students to know specific battles fought in each of these independence movements. Additionally, although it might be helpful to mention other people involved in these independence movements (others who assisted in starting or finishing the movements), this is not essential information.

**Assessment guidelines:** This indicator requires students to **compare** the development of Latin American independence movements, including the Haitian revolution. Appropriate assessments will require students to **identify** the various revolutions, the leaders of these revolutions, e.g. Simon Bolivar and Father Miguel Hidalgo, and the reasons for the revolutions. Students should also be expected to know the results of the different independence movements.